

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the Application.

1. (currently amended) A process for oxidizing an aqueous phase comprising ferrocyanide (V) which is recovered from an oxidative phenolic coupling reaction, to an aqueous phase comprising ferricyanide (IV), in a divided electrochemical cell, comprising
 - preparing an anolyte comprising pretreating the aqueous phase comprising ferrocyanide (V) which is recovered from an oxidative phenolic coupling reaction by [decantation or] extraction with toluene[or filtration];
 - placing the anolyte in contact with an anodic electrode of the divided electrochemical cell;
 - placing a catholyte in contact with a cathodic electrode of the divided electrochemical cell;
 - and applying electrical power to the divided electrochemical cell, wherein the electrical power has an amperage or voltage and wherein the applying is for a time period sufficient to oxidize the ferrocyanide (V) to ferricyanide (IV).
2. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the divided electrochemical cell is divided by a cation selective membrane.
3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the cation selective membrane is a [Nafion®] perfluorinated polyethylene sulfonic acid membrane.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled)

6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the pre-treatment of the aqueous phase comprising ferrocyanide (V) which is recovered from an oxidative phenolic coupling reaction comprises filtering the aqueous phase.
7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the catholyte comprises an alkali metal hydroxide solution[hydroxyl] or an alkali metal salt selected from the group consisting of[(e.g. KOH,] K₂CO₃, KHCO₃, KCl, KCN[)] solution having a concentration in the range of from 0.0001 to 1 M.
8. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the anodic electrode is graphite; and the cathodic electrode is selected from the group of copper, nickel, stainless steel and graphite.
9. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the electrical power applied to the divided electrochemical cell has a voltage between 2 V and 2.6 V.
10. (original) The process of claim 9 wherein the voltage is 2.6 V +/- 0.1V.
11. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the anolyte and catholyte are kept at a temperature of 50°C or more.
12. (original) The process of claim 1 further comprising one or all of the monitoring steps selected from the group of
 - recording of the current passing through the divided electrochemical cell;
 - recording of the ferrocyanide (V) concentration decay;
 - recording of the ferricyanide (IV) concentration accumulation;
 - recording of the apparition of free cyanide (CN⁻); and
 - recording of the conductivity of the catholyte.

Claims 13-15 (canceled)